

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (*Currently Amended*) A Communications stack (~~COST1~~), for connection management, which is to be used in a communications system comprising at least two communicating application programs, one of said application programs each communicating to the other of said application programs over a connection (~~CON~~) via said communications stack (~~COST1~~), said communications stack (~~COST1~~) comprising: ~~the following means:~~

[[a.]] connection resetting means (~~CRM~~), adapted to reset said connection by closing all connection involved elements for said one application program; ~~and~~

[[b.]] signal reception means (~~SRM~~), adapted to receive at least one signal for ~~signal for~~ managing said connection; (~~CON~~),

[[c.]] connection persisting means (~~CPM~~), coupled to ~~with an input to an output of~~ said connection resetting means (~~CRM~~) and adapted to keep said connection persistent; ~~[[,]] and~~

**~~CHARACTERISED IN THAT~~** ~~said communications stack further (COST1) comprises the following means:~~

[[d.]] decision means (~~DM~~), coupled to ~~with an input to an output of~~ said signal reception means (~~SRM~~) and to ~~with an output to an input of~~ said connection resetting means (~~CRM~~) and adapted to delay said reset of said connection if said at least one signal is a terminated application signal and subsequently decide to persist said connection if a further said at least one

signal is a successful application restart signal and said application restart signal is received before expiration of said delay.

2. (*Currently Amended*) The Communications stack (~~COST1~~) according to claim 1, wherein ~~CHARACTERISED IN THAT~~ said decision means (~~DM~~) additionally is adapted to change said delay based on a restart time of said application program.

3. (*Currently Amended*) A network comprising at least one Communication Network Element, said Communication Network Element comprising at least one ~~including a~~ communication stack (~~COST1~~) as claimed in claim 1.

4. (*Currently Amended*) The network ~~Communication Network Element~~ according to claim 3, wherein ~~CHARACTERISED IN THAT~~ said at least one Communication Network Element is a Border Gateway Protocol Router (~~ROU~~).

5. (*New*) The network according to claim 3, wherein said communication stack comprises an IP socket configured for persistency.

6. (*New*) A communications stack for connection management, which is used in a communications system comprising at least two communicating application programs, each of said application programs communicating with each other over a connection, each of said

applications programs executing its own communications stack, said communications stack comprising:

connection resetting means adapted to reset said connection by closing all connection involved elements for its application program;

signal reception means adapted to receive at least one signal for managing said connection for its application program;

connection persisting means coupled to said connection resetting means and adapted to keep said connection persistent; and

decision means coupled to said signal reception means and to said connection resetting means and adapted to delay said reset of said connection if said at least one signal is a terminated application signal and subsequently decide to persist said connection if a further said at least one signal is a successful application restart signal and said application restart signal is received before expiration of said delay.

7. (*New*) The communications stack according to claim 6, wherein said decision means is adapted to change said delay based on a restart time of said application program.

8. (*New*) A network comprising at least one communication network element, said communication network element comprising at least one communication stack as claimed in claim 6.

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9. (*New*) The network according to claim 8, wherein said at least one Communication Network Element is a Border Gateway Protocol Router.

10. (*New*) The network according to claim 8, wherein said communication stack comprises an IP socket configured for persistency.